



HR1086

LRB098 21241 MST 59243 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Loren Duke Abdalla is the great-grandson of Head Chief Running Bull of the Yankton Sioux Tribe from South Dakota; and

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WHEREAS, Loren Duke Abdalla, who went by Duke, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October of 1943, at the age of 18; and

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WHEREAS, When Duke finished basic training he was assigned and sent to New Caledonia, and later reassigned to Pavuvu Island with the First Marine Division, 1st Regiment, 1st Battalion, A Company, 1st Platoon, under the command of Colonel Chesty Puller and Major Ray Davis; and

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WHEREAS, After months of island training as a rifleman and machine gunner, Duke's regiment was given its first orders, to invade the Island of Peleliu; on September 15, 1944, Duke's battalion invaded Peleliu; he was stationed with his machine gun team and on the third day of the attack his team was pinned down on 3 sides by enemy fire; 3 of his comrades were struck and he was blown back against a coral wall which caused shrapnel holes in both his legs and blew out his ear drums; he survived and was one of only 6 Marines left in A Company, with just 29 left standing in 1st Battalion after the battle; he

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1 received the Purple Heart and was promoted to Corporal,
2 becoming the squad leader of the 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, A
3 Company; and

4 WHEREAS, Duke recovered in the hospital from his wounds and
5 returned to A Company ready for the Battle of Okinawa, where he
6 would again become a hero; the Battle of Okinawa began on April
7 1, 1945 and would last for 82 days until June 22nd; the First
8 Marine Division was ordered to relieve the 27th Army Division
9 near the Shuri Line on April 29th; 1st Platoon B and C Company
10 were both first ordered to take the Shuri Line but were
11 continually pushed back by the enemy machine gun fire; on May
12 5th it was A Company's order to take the line; the morning of
13 May 5th before the attack, Corporal John Brady, the 2nd
14 Squadron leader, was burned by an enemy grenade and under heavy
15 fire; Duke became a hero again, throwing Corporal Brady over
16 his shoulder and carrying him to safety before returning to his
17 squad of 12 marines; it was Duke's squad's order to take out
18 the 6 machine gun nests across the ridge; after the 4th nest
19 was taken out Duke stood alone, his entire squad was either
20 killed or wounded; he continued to push forward and take out
21 the final 2 machine gun nests, while the other 2 squads worked
22 around the base taking out spider traps and a big gun hidden in
23 a cave; in clearing the ridge, Duke allowed the First Marine
24 Division to advance, although many of his comrades were honored
25 for their bravery on that day, Duke was not recognized for his

1 action; and

2 WHEREAS, During Duke's tour on Okinawa he saved 2 other
3 men's lives; he pulled fellow Marine H. T. Clark out of fire
4 when he froze at the ridge known as Three Sisters; Duke also
5 pulled a war correspondent out of a shell hole while under
6 fire, saving his life; and

7 WHEREAS, Loren Duke Abdalla ended his service on February
8 28, 1947 with an honorable discharge from the United States
9 Marine Corp; he fought valiantly during his service in the
10 Pacific Theater; he was awarded the Purple Heart, saved the
11 lives of 3 men, and saved many of his fellow comrades with his
12 brave efforts; and

13 WHEREAS, The family of Loren Duke Abdalla has been telling
14 his story from World War II with the goal of his service being
15 reviewed and his actions deserving of a Medal of Honor; they
16 believe Duke was passed over for this award because of
17 discrimination against his Native American Heritage;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we urge the President of the United States and Congress to act
22 swiftly and review the case of Loren Duke Abdalla's actions

1 during World War II, which are deserving of the Medal of Honor;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to President Barack Obama, the entire Illinois
5 Congressional Delegation, the Speaker of the U.S. House of
6 Representatives John Boehner, the Minority Leader of the U.S.
7 House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, the U.S. Senate Majority
8 Leader Harry Reid, and the U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch
9 McConnell.